

Message Text

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NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR CH TW US

SUBJECT: C.P.LI DISCUSSED TAIWAN ISSUE WITH CHOU EN LAI

REF: PEKING 1198

1. I OMITTED FROM REFTEL THAT DR. CHEN PIEN LI TOLD ME THAT HE CAME TO PEKING CHIEFLY TO PROMOTE A SETTLEMENT OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE. HE CALLED ON ME JUNE 24, JUNE 26 AND THEN CAME BACK THIS MORNING (JUNE 27) AFTER HIS MEETING LAST NIGHT WITH CHOU EN-LAI. HE TOLD CHOU HE HAD MET WITH ME, AND PROBABLY THAT HE INTENDED TO SEE ME AGAIN TODAY.

2. OUR FIRST TWO MEETINGS CONSISTED MOSTLY OF GENERALITIES WITH LI ASSURING ME OF HIS DESIRE TO PROMOTE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA. HE DID, HOWEVER, REFER CRYPTICALLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO VISITS OF A PHILLIP FUGH (LI'S SPELLING) TO THE PRC AND TO TAIWAN TO PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

3. AT OUR MEETING FOLLOWING THE CHOU VISIT, LI ADDED A NEW WRINKLE. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE TAIWAN ISSUE CAME UP IN THE TALKS WITH CHOU, WANG HAI-JUNG COMMENTED THAT "MR. BUSH KNOWS WHAT OUR TERMS ARE FOR SETTLING THE TAIWAN QUESTION" AND CHOU HAD AGREED. LI SAID TO ME THAT HE FELT CHINA WOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT RENOUNCING THE USE OF FORCE ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE AND ASKED "COULD THE TAIWAN QUESTION BE SOLVED IF THE CHINESE SIDE

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MADE A STATEMENT FOR DOMESTIC PRC CONSUMPTION

(E.E., WITHOUT LINK TO ANY BILATERAL AGREEMENT) SAYING THE REUNIFICATION WITH TAIWAN WOULD BE PEACEFUL?" I ASKED LI IF SUCH AS STATEMENT WOULD OR COULD, IN HIS VIEW, BE MADE VERY SOON. LI STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE EXPLORED AT HIGH LEVELS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. LI WENT ON TO ADD THE DISCLAIMER THAT HE WAS NOT RAISING THIS AT THE INSTIGATION OF CHOU EN-LAI.

4. COMMENT: LI SUPPORTS THE BASIC PRC VIEW THAT TAIWAN IS A PART OF CHINA AND SEEMS TO BE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS. LI OBVIOUSLY HAS ACCESS TO THE TOP PRC LEADERSHIP AND IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THEY ARE TRYING TO USE HIM IN A GO-BETWEEN ROLE LIKE THEY EARLIER USED EDGAR SNOW. I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER THE IDEA OF A UNILATERAL CHINESE STATEMENT THAT TAIWAN WOULD BE LIBERATED PEACEFULLY IS LI'S IDEA OR CHOU'S. I ONLY KNOW THAT HE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY THE IDEA OUT ON ME BEFORE THE CHOU MEETING AND DID NOT DO SO. LI WILL BE IN TOWN ANOTHER WEEK.

5. AFTER TALKING WITH DR. LI ABOUT CHOU'S INTEREST IN FRUIT, PARTICULARLY HIS LOVE OF TREE-PICKED FRUIT, I SUGGEST THE PRESIDENT CONSIDER BRINGING SOME GREAT OREGON PEARS-- FRESHLY TREE RIPENED--OR SOME OTHER FRUIT THAT MIGHT BE IN SEASON AT THE TIME HE CAME TO CHINA. APPARENTLY, CHOU IS QUITE A FRUIT CONNISSEUR. LI SEEMED TO FEEL THE PREMIER WOULD APPRECIATE SOME VERY FRESH U.S. FRUIT.
BUSH

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